Most polluted cities

1750. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ten cities in the country which are most polluted; and

(b) steps taken or proposed to be taken to check pollution in all cities having more than 10 lakh population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The ten most polluted cities identified are Ahmedabad, Agra, Lucknow, Jharia, Kanpur, Varanasi, Faridabad, Patna, Jodhpur and Delhi.

(b) the Government have taken various steps to control pollution, which include -

- Notification of effluent and emission standards for various industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Appropriate siting of industries to minimise impact on eco systems.
- Promotion of cleaner technologies for control of industrial pollution.
- Control of vehicular pollution through promotion of clean fuels, introduction of stringent emission norms and fuel specification.
- Control of noise pollution through various notifications such as for diesel gensets, firecrackers and motor vehicles.
- Identification of critically polluted areas and preparation of action plans for restoration of environmental quality.
- City-specific action plans for improvement of environment.
- Strengthening of monitoring network and institutional capabilities to facilitate and improve enforcement mechanism.

Closure of zoos

1751. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many Zoos in the country are being forced to close down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the States where Zoos have been closed;

(d) whether Government have received requests from the States for financial assistance and allocation of alternative sites for resettlement of Zoos; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enable the animals to complete their normal life span, where the Zoos have been closed down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Zoos are required to conform to standards and norms prescribed under 'Recognition of Zoo Rules' for proper upkeep and health care of animals. Only such zoos have been asked to close down, which failed to provide quality life and health care to the animals, within the time frame prescribed by the Central Zoo Authority.

(c) Zoos have been closed down in the following states/UTs:

Andhra Prade*esh, Assa*m, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(b) Yes, Sir. Central Zoo Authority is already providing financial assistance for shifting of the zoos to alternate sites wherever these requests are received from the state governments.

(e) The operation of a zoo is closed only after the animals are properly relocated by the concerned Forest Department of the state in other zoos or appropriate forest area, to enable the animals to complete their normal life span.

Action taken by CPCB against defaulting hospitals

1752. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has recently issued show cause notices to five hospitals of Delhi for violating rules regarding bio-medical wastes disposal;